



THE TEMPLAR



A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Massachusetts and Rhode Island*

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder*

ELLIOTT N. HOLLEY, *Grand Commander*

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EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

May I hope that this finds you fully recovered from a wonderful holiday season. I know how busy you are but as the old adage goes, "If you want something done, ask a busy man to do it." I am asking you as a favor to me to make every effort to have as many candidates as you can for the Joint Conclave to be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Masonic Temple, Boston, Massachusetts. Registration is at 2:00 P.M. Everything is being done to make this an outstanding day for Templary. Be sure to make your reservations immediately. January 14th is the deadline.

The Presiding Council's Club is again sponsoring the Knights Templar Ball, to be held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Boston, on Saturday, April 2nd. I bring this to your attention at this early date so that each Knight will have plenty of time to secure his ticket for this outstanding event, through his respective Commander.

Re: Exemplification at Connecticut Valley -- Excerpts from our Grand Junior Warden: "It is regrettable that more Knights were not on the sidelines, because there was a wealth of Templar Education for every one who was interested. The writer has for sometime felt that this Exemplification Team, composed of Assistant Inspector Instructors under the direction of our Inspector Instructor actually serves as the Guards of a regular Commandery and the Grand Commandery is fortunate to have such a team. In my opinion these boys do a great deal to build good-will for the Grand Body and have a lot of courage to get up and do the work, knowing full well that they will be subject to criticism. I salute the Inspector Instructor and this Team for their excellent work."

As of January 1, we are 53 petitions short of our objective. We are, however, substantially ahead of our position of last year at this time. We need 156 petitions for January to bring us up to our objective. Recently individual prospect sheets were delivered or mailed to each Commander in Massachusetts with instructions that either the Commander or Chairman of the Membership Committee personally contact each prospect and submit a report of his contact. York Right Nights offer the most effective medium for channeling interested candidates to you en masse. If you have not had a York Right Nite recently, I urge you to consider holding one. Much remains to be done and can be done. Let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and do our full part to build this great Order of Templary.

Courteously yours,
ELLIOTT N. HOLLEY
Grand Commander

Suspensions:

The large number of suspensions granted each year by the Commanderies of this jurisdiction has been a matter of serious concern for some time. Various attempts have been made over the years to improve this condition but all have met with comparatively little success.

In a recent letter received from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment every constituent commandery is urged to review its list of suspended members during the last several years and to give serious consideration to ways and means of restoring those suspended members into active service in the commandery. The Grand Master also suggests that each constituent commandery carefully review its list of those members who are presently in arrears and who under normal circumstances would be suspended during the present fiscal year.

The Grand Commander, Sir Kt. Holley, urges each constituent commandery in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to give serious consideration to this request of the Grand Master and urges each Eminent Commander to call his officers together for the express purpose of considering the subject of suspensions.

During the past seven years losses from suspensions have been heavy. This poses a serious problem and one that can only be properly coped with on the constituent commandery level. As a rule these Sir Knights who permit themselves to be suspended do so because of lack of interest in the commandery work. In a majority of cases, this is due to a failure on the part of the constituent commandery and its leadership to present a program calculated to hold the interest of its members.

With two great humanitarian projects sponsored by our organization, namely the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, there is no excuse for a commandery to fail to interest its members if the commandery actively participates in these programs.

The fact that a majority of those who are suspended are comparatively new members is indicative that our new members are not being properly instructed in those principles for which our Order stands.

Excerpts from a message issued Nov. 1958 by Rt. Em. Alfred C. Blake:

"Altogether too many suspensions are granted with little or no investigation being made to find out why a man has become several years in arrears. It is most regrettable, but it is nonetheless a fact, that in a great many cases elderly or impoverished members have been suspended who were simply financially unable to pay their dues. And to many, some of whom had been faithful members for a great many years, their suspension came as a crushing blow. Before you suspend any member you should find out just why he is in arrears. While he may be reluctant to admit that illness or adversity is the reason he will probably be willing to admit it to his Commander. Furthermore, if you call at his home you can probably form your own conclusions as to his ability to pay. Now if you find he is obviously financially unable to pay dues your Commandery can vote to remit them and to take his dues out of its charity fund. Some commanderies have done this for years and all should do so. I know of no better use which can be made of charity funds than to pay the dues of the elderly, infirm, and impecunious members of the Commandery."

Commandery	Quota	3 Mos.	Dec.	Total
St. John's	40	0	0	0
Boston	75	11	5	16
Newburyport	20	7	6	13
Washington	7	0	0	0
Worcester County	48	2	3	5
Springfield	34	10	0	10
De Molay	54	10	5	15
Holy Sepulchre	23	13	7	20
Filgrim	10	24	4	28
Palestine	14	1	1	2
Milford	11	2	1	3
St. Bernard	6	2	1	3
Calvary	41	2	1	3
Haverhill	26	1	5	6
Old Colony	14	5	0	5
Sutton	37	4	5	9
Bethany	10	0	0	0
Winslow Lewis	14	2	0	2
Jerusalem	20	3	0	3
Hugh de Payens	39	4	1	5
St. Omer	20	4	0	4
Berkshire	18	10	2	22
Conn. Valley	9	1	0	1
Woonsocket	11	0	0	0
Godfrey de Bouillon	8	6	0	6
Joseph Warren	11	3	0	3
Narragansett	13	2	0	2
Bristol	17	6	5	11
Northampton	8	0	0	0
South Shore	11	1	0	1
Trinity	12	8	1	9
Natick	18	17	0	17
Coeur de Lion	25	4	8	12
Gethsemane	32	6	2	8
Olivet	30	2	0	2
Athol	9	1	0	1
Bay State	25	7	1	8
Cyprus	11	5	1	6
St. Paul	7	0	0	0
Beauseant	22	2	0	2
Cambridge	9	8	2	4
Bethlehem	11	2	14	16
Orange	5	3	1	4
Ivanhoe	17	6	2	8
Quincy	20	3	1	4
Temple	13	4	1	5
St. Andrew	11	3	0	3
Reading	21	9	1	10
Thos. Smith Webb	13	0	0	0
Sir Galahad	11	0	0	0
TOTAL	1000	221	85	306

1959-60 Monthly Objective
Necessary to Reach Quota

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	55	44
Oct.	120	124
Nov.	96	53
Dec.	88	85
Jan.	103	
Feb.	138	
Mar.	110	
Apr.	126	
May	104	
June	60	

Accumulative

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	55	44
Oct.	175	168
Nov.	271	221
Dec.	359	306
Jan.	462	
Feb.	600	
Mar.	710	
Apr.	836	
May	940	
June	1000	

Comparison

	1960	1959	1958	1957
Sept.	44	19	45	53
Oct.	168	96	140	185
Nov.	221	141	221	241
Dec.	306	225	269	312
Jan.		293	349	409
Feb.		419	430	520
Mar.		495	511	616
Apr.		619	613	707
May		688	693	772
June		768	744	832

Sir Knights:

Bethlehem Commandery No. 43 exceeded their quota for the entire year in the month of December alone! It now has 145% of their quota! Congratulations to Em. Commander Carl Moores.

In December our Grand Commandery was within three petitions of its quota for the month. We have a good year in the making - we can prove by new petitions that **"TEMPLARY IS ON THE MARCH!"**

With organization, enthusiasm, work and determination, we can make this first year of the '60's one of real accomplishment!

J. Leroy Jones, Director
Membership Progress & Publicity